existing rates are out of all proportion to the convenience provided. What has happened is that, while the other commodity prices are high all over the country, electricity prices are at almost the pre-war rates over the greater part of the Presidency due to Government's large scale and cheap generation and supply. Therefore, by contrast, in the few areas where surcharges are high, the supply rates seem abnormally so. In all cases, however, Government are taking care to permit no higher rate of surcharge than absolutely necessary."

Industrial establishments in the Province.

* 55 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) the present number of Industrial establishments in the Province;

(b) what is the number of Industrial establishments subject to inspection under the Factories Act;

(c) what is the present strength of the Factory Inspection staff;

(d) the number of factories inspected by the Factory Inspection staff during 1945–46;

(e) what qualifications and grades of salaries prescribed for the Factory Inspectors are;

(f) whether, in view of the specialized and hazardous nature of many industries and the highly technical nature of the processes employed in certain industries, the Government have considered the desirability of recruiting better qualified staff with better emoluments; and

(g) whether the Government have also considered the need to revive the special post of the Chief Inspector of Factories?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" (a) The Government have no information.

" (b) Three thousand four hundred and fifty industrial establishments have been registered under the Factories Act up to 1st August 1946. All these are subject to inspection under the Factories Act.

" (c) One Chief Inspector of Factories (Commissioner of Labour), one Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories, four Inspectors of Factories, Grade I, seven Inspectors of Factories, Grade II, and one Assistant Inspectress of Factories.

" (d) The number of factories registered under the Factories Act and which were in commission at the end of the year 1945 was 3,122. Of these 2,909 factories were inspected by Inspectors of Factories during the calendar year 1945. The remaining 213 factories were not inspected as some of them were found closed at the time of inspection and a few were registered late in the year.

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"(*e*) The qualifications prescribed for the Inspectors of Factories are :—

(i) the degree of B.E. of the University of Madras or the degree of M.Sc. in Chemical Technology of Andhra University ; or

(ii) a diploma in Engineering of the College of Engineering, Guindy ; or

(iii) the certificate of diploma of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad ; or

(iv) a pass in the examination qualifying for Associate Membership of the Institute of Engineers (India).

"The scales of pay are—

Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories—Rs. 600—75/2—900.
Inspector of Factories, Grade I—Rs. 260—30/2—440—40/2—600.

Inspector of Factories, Grade II—Rs. 200—30/2—410.
Assistant Inspectress of Factories—Rs. 200—30/2—410.

"(*f*) No. The qualifications already prescribed are adequate.

"(*g*) No. The present arrangements are satisfactory."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"Is it not a fact that the Factories Act provides for a separate and whole-time officer for the inspection of factories?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—"I am not aware of it."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"Was there a separate Chief Inspector of Factories before 1933?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—"Probably, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"Government must be aware of the thing. Is the Hon. Minister aware that there was one?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—"I take the information from the hon. Member."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"Why was the post abolished?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—"It was not thought necessary as the Labour Commissioner himself could discharge the work."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—"May I ask the Hon. Minister, if there are factory inspectors their services should also be utilized to help the Labour Commissioner?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—"Sometimes."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—"May I know whether the Government consider the present factory inspection staff is adequate in view of the increase in the number of factories?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—"You want me to believe that I take it to be adequate."

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SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I ask whether the Government consider it adequate? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" I shall certainly look into the matter."

MR. K. O. ANTHONI :—" In view of the fact that there are very many duties which the Labour Commissioner is called upon to perform, will the Hon. the Minister for Labour consider the desirability of appointing a Chief Inspector of Factories as a full-time officer? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" I shall consider the matter."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is it a fact that factory inspectors are expected to inspect the factories in their jurisdiction at least twice a year? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" I am not aware of it, Sir. I take the information from the hon. Member."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I ask whether factory inspectors are in charge of the administration of Payment of Wages Act also? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" I take the information from the hon. Member."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Sir,—the Hon. Minister told us that 3,122 factories are under commission and the inspection staff is about 11,—may I ask whether these 11 inspectors could inspect 290 factories on an average and does he not think that the inspection must necessarily be perfunctory? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" I am not prepared to admit that; it depends on the intelligence that they possess and the intelligence on the part of factory authorities."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In view of the fact that 290 factories have to be inspected twice a year by one factory inspector, does he not think that, on the face of it, it shows it would not be possible for him to do real inspection? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" I shall look into the matter."

Industrial Adviser to the Government of Madras.

* 56 *Q.*—ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) the function of the Industrial Adviser to the Government of Madras;

(*b*) the salary or honorarium paid to him;

(*c*) the staff supplied to him;

(*d*) the name of the officer;

(*e*) other jobs, if any, held by him; and

(*f*) his special qualification to hold the post?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" (*a*) The Industrial Adviser is attached to the Development Department in the Secretariat, to advise on questions pertaining to the planning and development of industries. The post of Industrial Adviser was created in July 1945 for this purpose. It was proposed to send him to the United Kingdom and the United States of